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President Wilson was himself directly praised upon the floor of the Reichstag. When we reckon that the bold Socialists who approved this are, by their own declaration, "opposed to all votes of credit for the war, that they are for an immediate peace, and that they are opposed to the monarchical system," and when it is realized that all the forces of military disintegration in Germany in one way or another act directly upon the equilibrium of the military party itself and all that it stands for, it would seem that we are justified in believing that the regeneration of Germany is on the way, that disillusionment is bringing revelation to deceived soldier and civilian, and that at last these and their statesmen are slowly and certainly uniting in an irresistible demand for the only kind of peace that America and her allies can grant.

### ACTING UPON THE EVIDENCE

**I**N HIS address of February 11, President Wilson said, "We never can turn back from a course chosen upon principle." We shall not turn back. We are an idealistic people, and our idealisms are increasingly articulate. We are determined, and we are going forth. We are determined that brute force, that perfect expression of autocracies, shall not fasten the fangs of its evil purposes upon unwilling democracies, be they great or small. We are going forth to counteract that force and to demonstrate its futility once and forever. We "never can turn back from a course chosen upon principle."

We are also a practical people bent upon acting in accord with the evidence; and the evidence reveals three definite things. First, it shows that the Imperial German Government is ruthless in its adulation of force. When Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg confessed to the Reichstag, August 4, 1914, that he had violated international law and perpetrated a "wrong" upon Belgium, he officially placed himself and his country upon the platform that "necessity knows no law." The *Jung-Deutschland*, an official organ, argued in November, 1913, that "war is the noblest and holiest expression of human activity." This doctrine has been generally taught throughout the schools of Germany. We do not forget that with Austria as an accomplice Prussia tore Schleswig-Holstein from Denmark in 1864 by force; that two years later Austria's claim to Holstein, because of her agreement with Prussia, was nullified and her assistance repaid with a beating administered by Prussian force. The present German Empire is the offspring of the Franco-Prussian War, a war provoked by a telegram designed by Bismarck as an insult to France.

The creed of force has dominated Germany ever since, a creed of "blood and iron." It is that government that is now working its will in Estonia, Courland, and Lithuania. Before these words are printed this power may be extended to Petrograd. The one next to the head of the German General Staff, Lieutenant-General Baron von Freytag-Loringhoven, the most distinguished writer of the German army, confesses with true Prussian insight that "In the future, as in the past, the German people will have to seek firm cohesion in its glorious army and its belaureled young fleet." This is the gravamen of his book, "Deductions from the World War." The militaristic idol is evidently worshiped in Germany still, quite as if nothing had happened during these last four years.

The evidence shows also that the Imperial Government accepts the ancient theory of the "divine rights of kings." "The State can do no wrong" expresses the views not only of Bernhardi and Treitschke, but also of the much less radical group of professors, such as Professor Lassan, of the University of Berlin. The Kaiser's proclamation to the army in the East in 1914 contained these words: "I am the instrument of the Almighty. I am His sword, His agent. Woe and death to all those who shall not uphold my will." Such a proclamation from the man who decides questions of war and peace without reference to the people or their representatives is seemingly never challenged by the German people. The Kaiser believes, and his docile people have been led to believe, that he rules by divine right.

But, thirdly, the evidence shows that the Imperial German Government is, largely because of these reasons, a menace, supremely hostile to all democracies, ours included. The significant fact is not merely that the Imperial German Government may dominate the Baltic Provinces, increasing areas of Russia, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey, set up a German hegemony in the name of Mittel-Europa, cut Europe in twain, and control with the red hand of might the lands from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf, and thence on to India; it is not that Germany may possess Belgium and northern France; the significant fact is that in this irreconcilable conflict between the will to might and the will to right, between the rights of kings and the rights of peoples, democratic governments, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, must either eventually be stifled, suffocated, battered, and lost, American democracy included, or conquer now, once and for all.

The main world issue is now clear. This war is a fact. We must advance or retreat. There is no middle

course. The only way out is through. Before we can attain to that co-operative behavior of States within a governed world where the marriage of liberty with justice begets a permanent peace among the nations, Germany must be chastened and disillusioned. We must now remind ourselves that "we can never turn back from a course chosen upon principle."

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## THE EVOLUTION OF OUR MEXICAN POLICY.

IT SEEKS a long time since Mr. Taft's policy of non-interference in Mexico, and since President Wilson refused to recognize the authority of Huerta, and made his first announcement, March 11, 1913, of an international policy, his policy toward Latin-America. On that day, when he announced that one of the chief objects of his administration would be "to cultivate the friendship and deserve the confidence of our sister republics," he further emphasized his interest in the "orderly processes of just government based upon law," . . . "and that there can be no freedom without order based upon law and upon the public conscience and approval."

Much water has passed under the bridge since then. We recall the wide extension of the revolution throughout large portions of Mexico; Mr. Wilson's attempt to get at the facts by sending a special representative to Mexico; his suggestions for the restoration of order in Mexico presented to General Huerta by Mr. Lind, and his address to the Congress, August 27, 1913, in which he expressed the view that "we shall triumph as Mexico's friends sooner than we could triumph as her enemies." The rescinding of the order forbidding exportation of arms to Mexico followed on February 3, 1914, and then his request to Congress, under date of April 20, 1914, to be allowed to "use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such an extent as may be necessary to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States." The incident at Tampico; the not altogether fruitless A. B. C. mediation; the seizure of the custom-house at Vera Cruz; the severing of diplomatic relations with Mexico; the restoring of the embargo on the shipment of military supplies into Mexico; the resignation and departure of General Huerta just before the outbreak of the present war—these all came in rapid succession, and they now recall to our minds days that at the time were strenuous and fateful.

Since those days, and in spite of our much misgiving in this country, in spite of no little selfish propaganda,

and in spite of the world war that absorbs so much of our attention, constructive things, in which we have had at least a tacit share, have been happening in and for Mexico. Her old constitution of 1857 has been superseded by the new constitution, promulgated February 5, 1917. This constitution opens the way for a more representative democracy than Mexico has heretofore known. General Carranza has been elected President for the constitutional term of four years, after which he can never be President again. Suffrage is now possessed by all citizens eighteen years of age if married, and twenty-one years if not, including men and women. The extension of the post, telegraph, and railroad service throughout the republic is marked. The interest in education is shown by the institution of compulsory education for children under fifteen years; by the Congress of Students which met in Merida, Yucatan, from February 15 to 28; by the Agriculture and Mining Congress soon to be held; by noteworthy activities in archaeology and ethnology, and by measures looking towards the improvement of the professions. In this country, the Mexican Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor has opened a permanent exhibit of Mexican products at the Chamber of Commerce in St. Louis. Our own United States Department of Labor grants that the new Mexican constitution registers an advance over the accepted legal regulations of labor in this country. Exploitations of the working classes by holders of large properties are already lessened, and labor cannot now be deprived of the fruit of its labor except by judicial decree. Whatever our irritations may have been at the Wilson policy of "watchful waiting" and at what seemed to many of us at the time to be indecision and vacillation, the fact is that Mexico is getting herself in hand, and we are not poorer, but richer because of it.

And now, since our last number, an agreement of great significance has been reached between the Government of the United States and Mexico, calculated to promote immeasurably the friendly relations spoken of so frequently by President Wilson in the early days of his administration. We understand that our Government agrees to advance five million dollars in gold to the Carranza government, three million bushels of corn, a quantity of rice, farm tractors, and other supplies needed by the Mexicans. Mexico, for her part, agrees to remove such export taxes as now interfere with the shipment of silver and other products to this country. We are to receive sisal from Yucatan at a reduced price, thus relieving our serious shortage in binding twine. While there is nothing here about the problem of American arms for Mexican soldiers, or about that other problem of permitting Mexican troops